HORBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

BENJAMIN KEMP,

MEDICAL OFFICER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1896.

PRESENTED APRIL 5th, 1897.

To the Chairman and Members of the Horbury Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District, for the year ending December 31st, 1896.

As in previous years my information as to the Sanitary Condition of your District has been obtained by frequent inspections, special inspections being made, along with your Inspector of Nuisances, wherever infectious disease was notified, and instructions given as to disinfection and the prevention of its spreading disinfectants being supplied by your Inspector. I have also supplied you with a Quarterly Report on the health of the District.

BIRTH RATE.—The number registered during the year was 164, against 206 in the previous year, and 176 in 1893 and 1894. Of these 82 were boys and 82 girls.

In the 1st Quarter there were	19 males ...	23 females
,, 2nd ,, ,, ...	20 ,, ...	25 ,,
,, 3rd ,, ,, ...	22 ,, ...	15 ,,
,, 4th ,, ,, ...	21 ,, ...	19 ,,
Totals	82 ,, ...	82 ,,

These figures give us a Birth-rate of 26·75 per 1,000 persons living, as compared with 34·02 in the previous year, 29·4 in 1894, 29·7 in 1893 ; and has been the smallest Birth-rate for over five years.

Out of the total number of Births, 5 were illegitimate —4 males and 1 female.

DEATH-RATE.—The number of Deaths registered during the year from all causes has been 88, of which 51 were males and 37 females, as compared with 134 last year, 101 in 1894. 100 in 1893, 1892 66, in 1891 103, 1890 90 ; so that with one exception this year has had fewer Deaths than for the last 6 years.

In the 1st Quarter there were	13 males ...	7 females
,, 2nd ,, ,, ...	10 ,, ...	10 ,,
,, 3rd ,, ,, ...	16 ,, ...	8 ,,
,, 4th ,, ,, ...	12 ,, ...	12 ,,
Totals	51 ,, ...	37 ,,

POPULATION.—My estimate at the end of the year is 6,130, being an increase of 76 for the year, by births plus deaths only. In 1895 the increase was 72 ; in 1894, 75 ; in 1893, 76 ; in 1892, 76. From these figures you will see the increase during the last few years varies little. The Death-rate is 14·35 for the year per 1,000 persons living. The following table shows the death-rate for the previous six years :—

1895	22·13
1894	16·8
1893	16·9
1892	11·3
1891	17·9
1890	15·5

INFANTILE MORTALITY, I am glad to say, is much lower than last year, when it reached the highest number for over 10 years, being 59. This year it is 36, occurring in children under five years of age ; 28 of these being infants under twelve months old. The proportion of these deaths has been at the rate of 5·8 per 1,000 persons living, and 40·9 per cent. of the whole deaths. The proportion of deaths in infants under twelve months old has been at the rate of 170·7 per 1,000 births registered. The following table shews the number of deaths occurring in children under 5 years for the previous ten years :—

1886	43
1887	47
1888	41
1889	23
1890	27
1891	38
1892	25
1893	34
1894	36
1895	59

The next table gives the number of deaths in each month at different ages : —

Deaths in 1896.	Under 1 Year.	Above 1 Under 5	Above 5 Under 15	Above 15 Under 25	Above 25 Under 65	Above 65	Above 70	Above 80
January	2	0	0	1	3	3	1	0
February	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0
March	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
April	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
May	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	3	1	0	0	6	2	0	1
July	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	0
August	4	0	1	1	3	2	1	1
September	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0
October	4	1	0	1	1	2	1	1
November	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
December	2	1	0	0	1	4	0	0
Total	28	8	4	7	26	15	5	3

The following table shews the causes of these deaths. and compares them with the five previous years :—

Deaths in	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
From						
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	6	0	0	3	0	0
Scarlatina	0	0	1	1	5	2
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	2	1
Membranous Croup	1	1	0	0	2	1
Whooping Cough	3	1	0	4	1	3
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	1	4	0	2
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	3	0	5	0	12	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatic Fever	1	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pyœmia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	1	1	0	0	1
Phthisis	13	3	7	9	9	5
Ague	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	15	16	24	23	29	17
Heart Disease	4	6	9	14	10	11
Injuries	3	2	3	2	4	2
Influenza	6	0	0	0	2	0
Diseases not named	47	36	49	41	58	41
Totals	103	66	100	101	134	88

INQUESTS.— There have been 8 inquests held during the year, as compared with 5 in the previous year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year 76 cases have been notified to me, against 100 in previous year, and are classed under the following heads :—

Scarlatina	44
Erysipelas	18
Diphtheria	5
Typhoid Fever	6
Puerperal Fever	2
Membranous Croup	1
Total	76

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—The deaths from this class have been 11, against 22 last year, which include 2 from Scarlatina, 1 from Diphtheria, 1 from Membranous Croup, 3 from Whooping Cough, 2 from Typhoid Fever, 1 from Erysipelas, and 1 from Puerperal Fever. The deaths are 12·5 per cent. of the total number of deaths, and show a death-rate of 1·7 per 1,000 persons living.

SCARLATINA —44 cases have been notified, compared with 80 last year, 1895 ; 16 in 1894, and 47 in 1893. There were in

January	6
February	6
March	11
April	8
May	2
June	5
October	5
December	1
Total	44

This disease, which was very prevalent during the last quarter of 1895, and assumed an epidemic character, was continued more or less during the first half of this year, and again in October and December. 2 deaths resulted out of 44 cases.

DIPHTHERIA.—There has been 5 cases notified—1 in February, 2 in March, 1 in April, 1 in May - 1 death resulting. In one case, at Horbury Bridge, the house was supplied with water from a well, which on being sent for analysis was found to be contaminated. The house has since been supplied with the Town's Water, and the well ordered to be closed. In the other four cases no insanitary condition or defect in water supply could be found. There has also been one case of Membranous Croup notified, which is much allied to Diphtheria.

TYPHOID FEVER.—There has been 6 cases of this disease, with 2 deaths—1 in February, 2 in March, 1 in September, 2 in November. In only 2 of the cases (occurring in the same house, in Queen Street) could anything be found which might have caused it. The house was low, damp, and badly ventilated, and the premises at the back not in a satisfactory condition. These were ordered to be remedied, and the instructions were carried out. Another case was a very sad one in High Street. A young man, only married a week or two, had been spending his honeymoon at the Isle of Man, came to his house from there ill, took to his bed, and died—this case being no doubt contracted before he came here. The house and premises were in a good sanitary state. In the remaining cases nothing could be detected that would be likely to cause it.

ERYSIPELAS.—From this disease no less than 18 cases have been notified, against 7 last year and 4 in 1894, with 1 death in an infant. In none of these cases were the sanitary arrangements at fault, most of them being simple cases.

MEASLES.—This troublesome disease broke out at Horbury Bridge in March, and I was about closing the schools there, had it not soon run its course amongst the children. A good many were affected. All were mild cases, and no deaths. This is not a notifiable disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.—This pest to young children is not amongst those to be notified, but in my opinion it ought to be, as children are often allowed to attend school with this disease upon them. Cases came under my observation in January, April, May, June ; and in July many cases and was the cause of 3 deaths.

DIARRHŒA.—We had not the usual amount of summer Diarrhœa this year, so far as I could ascertain, and no death, whilst last year there were 12 deaths (chiefly infants).

INFLUENZA, I am glad to say, has not visited us this year to my knowledge. Some cases of illness have been called so, but they have been more of the old-fashioned type. Certainly no death has been registered from it.

I am indebted to Mr Spencer, your Inspector, for a good deal of the following information, and would here beg to thank him for it.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL and SCAVENGING are carried on in the same manner as in former years, the privy midden and covered ashpits being chiefly used. These are cleansed out about once a month by your own men, the ashes and night soil being carted on to farmers' land, the refuse being used for making roads on the Sewage Farm. During the year 1,226 ashpits have been emptied, and 2,642 loads of night-soil removed. Also 37 sumps have been emptied, and 258 loads of sewage removed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, and MILKSHOPS.—There are 35 of these in your District, also 2 Bakehouses, which have been visited periodically, and found in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—The number of these remain the same—12, which have also been regularly inspected, and found on the whole in a fairly good condition.

CANAL BOATS.—47 of these have heen inspected whilst passing through your District, as none stop here. They were all found to comply with the regulations concerning them. They were found in a fair and passable condition.

NUISANCES.—13 notices have been served upon persons regarding deposit of ashpit refuse, defective drainage, accumulation and deposit of slaughter-house refuse. These were all removed or abated.

SAMPLES OF MILK have been taken occasionally, and in each instance have been found of good quality.

NEW BUILDINGS, &c.—During the year plans were submitted and approved by you of the following buildings, viz. :—New houses, 30 ; alterations to public-houses, 2 ; additions and alterations to houses, 26 ; wooden erections and out-offices, 8. 10 house drainage connections have been made to main sewers. I would draw the attention of your Council to the following streets, which urgently need flagging and putting into a proper condition, not having been properly done since the streets were first made, viz. :—Carlton Street, Cross Park Street, George Street, and Shepstye Road.

WATER SUPPLY.—A new meter house has been erected and new meters fixed at Thornhil as a means of a better supply of water.

Along with this report are Tables A, B, and C, with respect to new cases of infectious disease, mortality, and work done, as required by the Local Government Board and the West Riding County Council, to whom a copy of this Report will be sent.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours repectfully,

B. KEMP.

J Robinson, & Son, Printers, "Express" Office, 34, Southgate, Wakefield.